

THE WAR IN AFRICA.

It Was Forced Upon the Boers by Secretary Chamberlain.

Tabulated History of the Events Which Led to the Ultimatum of President Kruger—England's Ignoble Part.

[Special Correspondence.]

Now that a state of actual war exists between the South African republic and Great Britain it behooves the people of other nations to review dispassionately the causes which led up to the conflict.

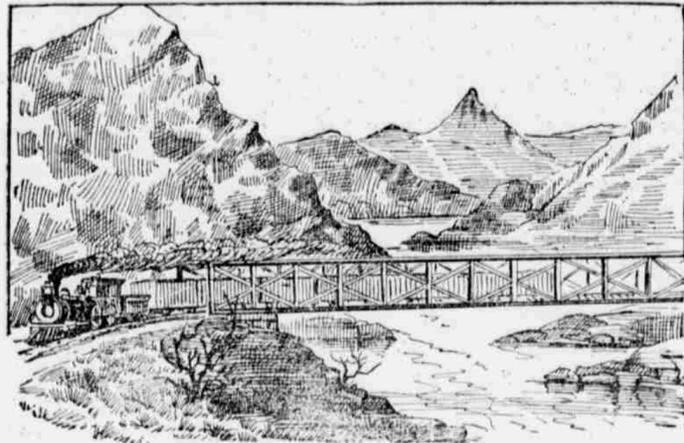
Whatever one's personal prejudices may be, it is always well to look upon both sides of a great historical question; and in this instance the impartial observer—be he American or Englishman—is compelled to admit that the Boers were forced into beginning hostilities by the hypocritical and unfair policy of Joseph Chamberlain, British secretary for the colonies, into whose hands the Salisbury government placed the settlement of the Transvaal difficulty.

The original complaint, of which the present war is the result, was the alleged discrimination of the Boer government against the "outlanders," or foreign residents, of the republic who

foundation it has elected its own president, made its own laws, and its citizens have never taken an oath of allegiance to Queen Victoria. The Boers who formed the republic withdrew from British soil for the sole purpose of forming an independent government, and this right was fully recognized by Great Britain in 1852 and again in the treaty of 1881 and the convention of 1884. The only right which the Boers accorded to Great Britain was that of conducting the diplomatic affairs of the Transvaal; and upon this flimsy concession Secretary Chamberlain has based his demand for regulating the status of foreigners residing within the limits of the republic.

The injustice of the British claim speaks for itself, but it is further emphasized by the fact that the "outlanders" are not only to be permitted to control the elections in the Transvaal, but that they shall at the same time lose none of their rights as British subjects, nor be compelled to take an oath of allegiance to the republic. The preposterousness of such a proposition cannot fail to appeal forcibly to every American citizen, not one of whom would for a moment consent to have Englishmen, Germans, Frenchmen and Italians residing within the United States exercise the right of franchise without assuming the responsibilities as well as the advantages of American citizenship.

Had President Kruger accepted the Chamberlain proposals the Transvaal



NORVOL'S PONT, CAPE COLONY AND FREE STATE FRONTIER.

were heavily taxed and yet had no voice in the administration of either local or general affairs. This complaint came to the British colonial office in the form of a petition signed by British subjects residing in the South African republic; and was made by Secretary Chamberlain the pretext for undermining the stability and independence of the Boer government, in direct violation of the convention of 1884, which guaranteed to the Transvaal absolute independence in the management of international affairs.

A demand made upon President Kruger to redress the grievances of the dissatisfied foreigners resulted in a conference between himself and Sir Alfred Milner, British high commissioner to South Africa; and the Transvaal agreed to pass a new franchise law and to refer other subjects to international arbitration.

Instead of meeting the Boers half way, Secretary Chamberlain and his



THE WAR IN AFRICA. (Field Cornet Calling Burgher to Report for Service.)

personal representative in Africa, Sir Alfred Milner, prevented a peaceful settlement by enlarging their demands every time President Kruger made a concession; and when finally the main point at issue was reduced to a misunderstanding between a five-year and a seven-year franchise law Secretary Chamberlain, without any provocation whatsoever, raised the question of "sovereignty." But before resorting to this clearly unjust and dishonest dodge, he had caused the British war office to dispatch thousands of troops to the Transvaal frontier.

At no stage of the diplomatic transactions between the two countries did the Transvaal question, the supremacy of Great Britain; its representatives at the various conferences insisting merely upon domestic independence.

For some reason or other, probably to make themselves believe in the justice of the present crisis, English newspapers and politicians have of late spoken of the Transvaal as a British colony, but such statements are founded neither upon history nor fairness.

The South African republic has never been a British colony. Since its

would have ceased to be an independent state and Great Britain would no longer have been the "suzerain," but the "sovereign" power. The fact of the matter is that since hostilities have begun English authorities have spoken of nothing but sovereignty, the more objectionable term "sovereignty" having been relegated to the archives of the foreign and colonial offices at London.

Whatever one may think of the Boers, their customs and their ways, their history has been one long struggle for independent existence; and their initiative in issuing an ultimatum to their powerful enemy surprised nobody, least of all the war faction in England. President Kruger, whose little republic was being surrounded by a chain of armed soldiery, could not afford to wait until the enemy was strong enough to crush his army of burghers in one great pitched battle. He realized as well as his opponents that his only chance of securing an honorable peace depended upon quick action and the complete route of the British forces now in Natal and other border colonies. A single overwhelming defeat would mean the destruction of Boer rule in South Africa and the conversion of the free Transvaal into a British colony.

Surprise has been expressed in some quarters that the Orange Free State, an absolutely independent Dutch-African republic, should have decided to cast its lot with the struggling Boers of the Transvaal. Such a step, however, was but natural. The two republics have not only been bound together by an offensive and defensive alliance for years, but the absorption of the South African republic would inevitably lead to the extinction of the Orange Free State. The burghers of the latter commonwealth, after the fourth "trek," defeated the British at Bloemfontein, in 1848, and founded a republic. The British troops then in Africa were unable to cope successfully with the indignant frontiersmen; and when, in 1853, the warlike Kaffirs threatened to annihilate the discouraged English garrisons the London government acknowledged the complete independence of the Orange Free State, at the mercy of whose troops was the life of every Englishman in the southern part of the African continent.

England has never forgiven the defeat at Bloemfontein—nor those at Laing's Neck and on Majuba hill—and the Boer population of all South Africa knows that the game played by Chamberlain and his cohorts was not intended to help the "outlanders," but was rather the final move in a contest for absolute control over the gold and diamond fields of the Rand.

Back of Chamberlain then stand, organized capital and organized rapacity, fortified by military hatred and unpatriotic jingoism. Back of President Kruger lofty patriotism raises its banners. In such a struggle the sympathy of the world—especially that of a free people—is with the under dog; not because he is an especially lovable creature, but because he stands for liberty and self-government. G. W. WEIPIERT.

VICTIMS OF COCAINE.

Their Number Is Increasing at a Truly Frightful Rate.

How the Drug Is Administered—Its Terrible Effects on the Character and Habits of Its Devotees.

[Special Washington Letter.]

The temperance lecturers of the future will be obliged to enlarge their scope of vision, increase their store of facts and wage war against evils of an alarming nature concerning which the general public at present knows practically nothing.

Scientists in the National museum, the Smithsonian institution, the medical staff of the army and navy and the health congress have collected facts which demonstrate that the cocaine habit is becoming prevalent, and that its effects upon its victims are even more dangerous than the effects of alcohol.

The best discoveries of medical science in all the ages have been alcohol and opium. Alcohol has stimulated many a sinking and dying man, giving him renewed lease of life; so that surgeons and physicians have been enabled to bring the sufferers back to health. Opium has quieted the pain, saved the body from its racking ravages, and enabled the medical and surgical attendants to apply restoratives which might have been unavailing without the aid of the heart of the poppy.

Both of these blessings of science have been perverted, so that the victims of alcohol and of opium have committed crimes and debauched their own careers, while spreading unhappiness and misery throughout the world. Mothers, wives and children have fallen beneath the blows and curses of drunken husbands and fathers, while whole families have starved or gone to the poorhouse; while opium eaters and morphine fiends have wasted their substance, weakened their intellects and dreamed themselves into dishonorable graves.

Another blessing of scientific discovery is now being perverted into a curse to humanity. The history of cocaine is given briefly by a writer of ability and distinction, and every lover of humanity should know that history, in order that wise precaution, kindly foresight and generous affection may provide against the spread of the evil in our communities. This latest blessing should be used sparingly and cautiously by physicians. Indiscriminate resort to its use may tend to disseminate the evil habit which is already causing havoc and dismay in happy homes.

Cocaine, like morphine, is a drug capable of most beneficial results to mankind, and it is only its abuse and



HITTING THE OPIUM PIPE.

not its intelligent use which produces evil. It is a salt extracted from coca leaves, the product of a shrub that grows wild in South America. The virtues of the plant as a nerve stimulant have long been known to the Peruvian natives, who for many years attracted the wondering notice of travelers by the prolonged fatigue which they were enabled to endure by simply chewing its leaves. About 19 years ago a young German physician called the attention of the medical profession to the fact that a soluble combination of cocaine with hydrochloric acid possessed remarkable properties as a local anesthetic. It was found that when this was applied to the tip of the tongue that portion of the organ was temporarily benumbed. A similar experiment with the eye led to a like result. It was found that upon the application of a few drops of the solution the delicate nerves of sensation were practically paralyzed and that the most painful operations could be performed without discomfort to the patient. For awhile the drug was little used, on account of its great expense and the difficulty of obtaining pure preparations. It was looked upon and believed to be entirely safe, so that where applied, and entirely harmless. In time, however, the difficulties attending its manufacture were removed, and it came into more general use to dull the sensibilities of the nose and larynx during examinations and operations.

Its cost became so lessened that it was introduced into the wide field of patent medicines as the basic condition of so-called catarrh remedies. Apparently, when thus employed it produced the most marvelous cures, because the pa-

tient, finding the delicate nasal membrane deadened and all discomfort and annoyance removed, imagined that the evil had passed away, not knowing that the relief was only temporary.

Many physicians also, after using this agent as a palliative in treating disturbances of the nasal passages, placed it in the hands of patients to be employed at pleasure, and these accredited men of medicine are unquestionably responsible, to a very large extent, for the spread of what has really become an alarming national evil. When cocaine had come into general use by physicians and makers of patent medicine, for the alleviation of all nasal troubles, including even influenza, and for toothaches or the temporary suppression of any pain or irritation where the delicate mucous membrane is affected, it was found that a craze was created for the continued use of the drug. This, it was soon learned, had its origin not in the mere suppression of the pain or irritation, but by reason of the fact



FOR MOTHER'S TOOTHACHE.

that applications of cocaine, either to the nasal membrane or by hypodermic injections—the same method by which morphine is most generally introduced into the system—produced a sense of extreme exhilaration; in fact, a condition of most enjoyable intoxication. Those who had once experienced this found it difficult to abstain from a renewal of the application, and, in time, found the use of the drug absolutely essential to life.

Thus the blessing of relief from pain has been perverted into a curse to humanity. A leading druggist here says: "Little children come to me suffering with toothache, and beg for a two per cent. solution of cocaine. I give them an ounce or a dram, with instantaneous effect. They take it home, and soon they come again, saying that mother has a toothache, and I supply them. Physicians have recently informed me that mothers and fathers send children for the drug, when in reality they want it to use hypodermically on themselves. There is no doubt that the habit is growing, and that the victims resort to all sorts of expedients to get the drug, without permitting druggists and physicians to know that they are making use of it for purposes of pleasure and excitement."

A learned physician who retained sufficient intelligence to enable him to describe the evil which was destroying him has written as follows:

"One syringe self-injected is, in my opinion, absolutely sure to produce the fascinating desire for a second. The individual is almost certainly then a cocaineist, and will procure the drug for self-administration even when apparently it is impossible to do so. All watching is useless. He has thousands of excuses to get a moment to himself, generally in the neighborhood of some chemist. Unscrupulous—even though still aware to some extent of his ties—he will get it dishonestly if necessary, and even when not craving for it at the moment, he will get it because his only idea is to have it with him. The sense of right and wrong is not abolished, but he does not care much about trifles. Thus he sinks lower and lower, disregards his personal appearance, and because he will always show, or sham to show, a certain respect to his higher education, he seeks the association of lower people. He thus becomes a scoundrel or criminal, and does not mind it, so long as he gets his cocaine."

"It is extremely seldom that he makes a trial to free himself of the habit, mainly because he does not see any reason to do so. Suicide he never contemplates so long as he can get his beloved drug."

At the Smithsonian institution the writer was informed that this drug produces a complete transformation in the mental processes of some individuals. Victims of cocaine lose all moral sense. Knowing right from wrong, they care not for moral obligations. Under the influence of the drug eminent lawyers lose all sense of or regard for equity. They care not for the sanctions of the law; surgeons wield the knife regardless of the fate of those who place their lives in jeopardy on operating tables. Physicians neglect trusting patients, or give them drugs merely for purposes of experiment, without humane regard for the effects upon the lives of those who lie helplessly in bed, trusting those who profess to be their medical attendant and adviser is striving to prolong their lives. Thus in hospitals crimes are committed which never see the light of day; and the criminals themselves are unsuspected, until their subjection to the drug becomes apparent to all around and about them. SMITH D. FRY.

NOTES OF THE FASHIONS.

Points About Laces—Popularity of Cloth for Fall Outdoor Wear.

It would not seem that there were women enough in the world to wear or think of wearing all the beautiful and expensive machine-made laces now to be seen. Those exhibited are many of them not yet in the country in bulk. They are samples from which the orders are given, and the laces sent on from France, by German presses France closely in her lacemaking. She has French patterns and makes her laces with a less fine finish, perhaps, but with the advantage for the great multitude of the unrich that they are less expensive and so more popular. With all the wonderful variety of patterns to be found, there is still a great cry among the modistes anxious for original effects for something different.

There are many stylish "all-over" laces with round dots half an inch in diameter and with small conventional figures that are to be made up in original ways this winter, the cream lace over white silk for waists. Many laces have patterns in chiffon set into net in black and in white. There are the applied and embroidered net and one not in the trade could scarcely begin to name them all. There are variations in so many ways of so many laces that it is difficult to tell 't'other from which, and names used in the trade make only a necessary distinction and are beyond the grasp of the multitude.

Cloth is getting its innings in more ways than one. It not only ornaments silk gowns now, but all the variations seem to have been used in the silks. It is used on hats more than ever before. White cloth forms the sole trimming on some long-haired silky felt hats with the exception of the feather, and it forms a part of the decoration on others.

A handsome black cloth gown is simply but effectively trimmed with bands of black satin stitched with white. A black taffeta gown that an artist up town is having made for fall outdoor wear, and which will later make a handsome house gown, is to be trimmed with black cloth stitched with white.

Some of the prettiest hats for common wear not of the style of rough rider or similar felt hats, which have become somewhat wearisome even when they are not distinctly unbecoming, are the soft hats, small and turban-like, made of folds of corded or stitched soft felt. These come in different colors, and with a velvet foundation cost \$2.50, and all felt, \$2.25.

The thinnest of gauze is made into long-neck scarfs and edged with heavy silk fringe.—N. Y. Times.

HOUSEHOLD BITS.

Items of Information Which May Be of Use to the Busy Housewife.

That wholesome nursery favorite, Brown Betty, may be varied occasionally by substituting peaches for apples. Put a layer of buttered crumbs in the bottom of the pudding dish, which should also be well buttered, and cover with a layer of peach quarters, sprinkled with granulated sugar. Continue with the crumbs, peaches and sugar until the dish is full, having the crumbs on top. Bake half an hour in a moderate oven and serve with sweetened cream.

A sardine of venison is the best for roasting. Lard it with stripes of firm, fat pork, salt and pepper and dredge with flour. Roast in a hot oven, basting frequently. Venison should be served rare and very hot.

A pretty conceit for children's parties is sponge cake baskets, which may hold peaches and cream or jelly, if preferred. The cakes are baked in deep round gem pans. When cold the centers are cut out with a sharp knife, leaving a half-inch roll of the cake. This is frosted outside and the rim decorated, with tiny candies or sugar almonds.

At the linen stores Russian goods are among the novelties much admired. Sideboard or bureau scarfs show wide borders of drawn work with geometrical patterns picked out in red, black and green. The drawn work is done in checkerboard squares and the thread are covered with red or black to produce the pattern.

An excellent cucumber wash for the complexion is made by heating the juice of fresh cucumbers to the boiling point, skimming and bottling. A tablespoonful of this juice added to two tablespoonfuls of water should be applied to the face night and morning, letting it dry on.

To clean iron sinks rub well with a cloth wet in kerosene oil. After using the oil wash thoroughly with hot, soapy water.

Ice plates molded for the purpose are now frequently used in serving little neck chums.—Washington Star.

Sour Milk Ginger Muffins.

Mix together one-half a cupful of molasses, one-half a teaspoonful of soda, one-half teaspoonful of salt, one tablespoonful of ginger; one-half cupful of sugar, one tablespoonful of butter (creamed), one cupful of sour milk, 2 1/2 cupfuls of flour with one-half teaspoonful of soda mixed in it. Beat well; grease muffin pan; nearly fill with the batter. Bake 20 minutes in a moderate oven.—Philadelphia Press.